

a first interconnecting piece [for coupling] that couples the first end edge of the second panel to the outer periphery of the first panel; and

a second interconnecting piece [for coupling] that couples the second end edge of the second panel to the outer periphery of the first panel;

wherein the first and second end edges extend beyond the outer periphery of the first panel to provide an extension between the first and second panels.

Please add the following new claims:

C 41/71. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein the connections of the first and second interconnecting pieces to the end edges of the second panel and the outer periphery of the first panel are not detachable.

72. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein the first and second interconnecting pieces are fabric pieces.--

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 5-6 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 71 and 72 have been added. Claims 1-4 and 71-72 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

First, claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice, so the drawing objection is now moot.

Second, claims 1-6 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,349. Although Applicant does not agree with this rejection, in the interests of expediting the prosecution of this application, Applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer to overcome this rejection after all the Section 102 and 103 rejections have been overcome or withdrawn.

Third, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 in a manner similar to that which was graciously suggested by the Examiner. Thus, all pending claims are submitted to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Fourth, claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. Re. 35,571 to McLeese ("McLeese"). Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected